

environmental research at the Navy's David Taylor Research Center outside Annapolis, studying chemicals to prevent the growth of barnacles on ship hulls and developing protective foams to guard against nerve gases.

Massie said he found the academy, with its stringent admission standards and emphasis on technical education, a luxurious teaching environment.

"Scholarship is emphasized here—you know you could expect certain things of your students," he said. "You had enough money to have the proper equipment, and students could afford all their books," unlike students at some of the civilian colleges where he taught.

Massie said midshipmen were sometimes baffled by his unorthodox way of scoring exams—two points for each question they got right, but 50 points subtracted for each one they got wrong. He was trying to prove a point to them:

"Everything in life doesn't have the same value," he said. "It depends on the circumstances."

AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1432) to authorize a new trade and investment policy for sub-Saharan Africa:

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Chairman, the most important thing about the U.S. trade policy towards sub-Saharan Africa is that there isn't one. Congress has an opportunity to change that situation by passing HR 1432, the African Growth and Opportunity Act, a widely supported bipartisan bill, that creates the framework for qualified African countries to move from aid to trade.

For the first time since the end of the colonial era, the United States is proposing to engage the countries of sub-Saharan Africa on the same basis as we do the rest of the world, as trading partners. The old donor and recipient paradigm, that has historically defined U.S. relations with Africa, is being replaced by a new and more dynamic paradigm that states that:

... it is in the mutual economic interest of the United States and the countries of Africa to promote programs, policies and strategies that reduce poverty through economic growth, self reliance, and commerce. Traditional aid, while still necessary in some countries, is not sufficient to bring about fundamental change in Africa. Economic growth, self reliance, and commerce are not only vital for raising living standards on a broad basis, but also for addressing the critical social and health needs that plague Africa. Without a strong commitment to economic growth, self reliance, and commerce, no social programs, no schedule expenditures, no amount of aid will make a sustained improvement in the quality of life of Africa's citizens. Africa needs economic growth to make its social objectives feasible.

HR 1432 is the beginning of a process that will change our negative bureaucratic culture towards Africa. HR 1432 is strongly supported by all of Africa's political and economic lead-

ers. The response from Africa had been clear, Africans want to be trading partners with the U.S. and the world, not perpetual recipients of donor assistance. HR 1432 explicitly states that the U.S. should continue to provide traditional development assistance to those countries attempting to build civil societies. In fact, the bill also states that economic growth depends on establishing a receptive environment for trade and investment, and that to achieve this objective USAID should continue to pursue programs in Africa. The Clinton Administration, including USAID, have strongly endorsed this legislation.

Many of the countries of Africa are moving in the right direction. Political and economic reform are beginning to take hold and a new generation of leaders have assumed power through elections. Things are much better, albeit not perfect, but better. Many countries in Africa have experienced positive growth rates over the last five years. Africa currently has 14 stock markets and the number is growing. Trade between the U.S. is growing, it is currently larger than trade between the U.S. and the former Soviet Union. The American corporate community has developed a renewed interest in Africa. Now is the time to seize the initiative and work to solidify the positive developments that are taking place in Africa. HR 1432 gives the world's largest economy a plan to help the smallest economies to grow and prosper without harming U.S. consumers, manufacturers, or workers.

In addition to establishing a trade policy towards Africa, HR 1432 is composed of three primary cornerstones and several key initiatives. The first cornerstone is the negotiation of U.S.-Africa free trade agreements. The negotiation of the free trade agreements gives us the opportunity to begin the process of bilateral and multilateral discussion that, over a number of years, will lead to the type of economic and trade relations that are mutually beneficial to Africa and the U.S. HR 1432 is not a free trade agreement—it promotes free trade with African countries as a goal for the future.

The second cornerstone is the creation of a U.S.-African Economic Cooperation Forum, loosely modeled on APEC. The forum will begin to change the perception of Africa as anything other than a recipient of donor aid, or as a humanitarian basket case. The forum will be the place where trade and investment issues and concerns will be discussed at by Cabinet level officials and will demonstrate to the international community that the United States takes Africa seriously. The forum will also send a signal to our business community that the U.S. government is committed to making it easier to do business in Africa.

The third cornerstone is the U.S.-Africa investment partnership. OPIC will be directed to establish a privately managed equity fund and an infrastructure fund that will leverage private financing for small and moderate sized U.S. and African businesses, and expand opportunities for infrastructure development throughout Africa. The demand for infrastructure in Africa is enormous but, the response from the international finance community has not been promising. It is clear that Africa's future competitiveness depends on reliable telecommunications, roads, railways, and power plants.

The principal goal of our three cornerstones is to attract international project financing to Africa, and to make it financially feasible for

U.S. investors to participate in profitable business opportunities in Africa. If successful, there will be substantial job growth, increase in per capita incomes, and expanded trade between the U.S. and Africa.

While the three cornerstone programs will take time to implement, there is one initiative that could have an immediate impact on Africa countries. African textile and clothing exports to the U.S. represent less than 1% (about \$383 million) of the total import market of \$46 billion. HR 1432 contains a provision that could be implemented immediately and would not compete with U.S. products or cost U.S. jobs. In fact, when the World Bank analyzed HR 1432, it reported that the impact on U.S. manufacturers would be negligible. The provision eliminates the existing quotas on textiles and clothing exports from the countries of Africa as long as a cost effective and efficient visa system to guard against transshipment is in place. This provision represents a major opportunity to expand Africa's exports to the U.S. and generates more than 200,000 jobs and millions of dollars in tax revenue for Africa. Moreover, African and American products would not compete with each other.

HR 1432 is a commitment to a major shift in emphasis towards a private sector and market incentives approach to stimulating economic growth and reducing poverty in Africa. To participate, a country will have to meet eligibility requirements based on a strong commitment to economic, political, and trade liberalization.

Some think this initiative is naive, overly optimistic, or just completely unrealistic. I think that it is time that the U.S. becomes actively involved in building an economic partnership with the countries of Africa. That's what HR 1432 intends to do.

Mr. Speaker, on the floor of the House of Representatives, we often hear of days which are declared "historic". However, with the passage of HR 1432, the African Growth and Opportunity Act, today is truly a historic day.

COMMEMORATION OF CALIFORNIA'S CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS WEEK

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commemorate the week of March 15–21, 1998, which Governor Pete Wilson has proclaimed as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Week," in my home State of California.

Each year, about 10,000 children in our country are diagnosed with cancer. In California, this deadly disease is the second leading cause of death among children. There can be little else that can compare with the senselessness and tragedy of a little child who has been struck with a life-threatening illness. Today, I would like to recognize the American Cancer Fund for Children, and it's founder, Steven Firestein, for not only helping to find a cure for these sick children, but for easing their road to recovery, or to their final rest.

The American Cancer Fund for Children has helped families get through what is certain to be the most difficult time in their lives. Providing food, clothing, transportation, prosthetic devices and social service programs to young